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ABSTRACT

This report discusses the impact of federal budget cuts, program restructuring, and rescissions in programs crucial to child survival. It summarizes the changes voted in by House committees, including changes in school meal programs; combining the Child and Adult Care Food Program with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program; removing guarantees for poor children to receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children; cutting funds for foster care, adoption assistance, and child abuse prevention and treatment services; eliminating cash assistance to indigent children with disabilities; developing child care block grants that end child care entitlements for poor families; and cutting youth's summer jobs programs. The impact of the Personal Responsibility Act on the following programs is discussed: (1) Aid to Families with Dependent Children; (2) Supplemental Security Income for children; (3) child care assistance for families on welfare; (4) services for abused and neglected children; and (5) child nutrition programs, such as WIC, the Child and Adult Care Food program, and school meal programs. Appendices discuss why safety net entitlements are ill-suited as block grants, contend that consolidating some federal programs can increase efficiency and service to children and families but that losing the "entitlement" status places children and families at risk when the economy is in a downturn or when caseloads increase, and present state and national data on projected funding cuts in the year 2000 for the programs discussed in this document. (KDFB)

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